

America's FUTURE

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PROPERTY AND THE PUBLIC PURSE

In this series of articles, we have been re-stating certain basic American principles. We have seen that the greatest enemy of a free people is Big Government, and that the more power we give to the central government, the more we play into the hands of the communists — because we come to resemble the system they represent.

One of the evils of the growth of Big Government in a free society like ours is this: We ourselves provide the wherewithal for our own

enslavement. If a tyrant arose in America, or came from abroad, and tried to take from us a good part of our substance so that he could use it to rule us, we would know how to deal with him. But when we surrender into the hands of a central government the power to take and use our substance, we become the architects of our own enslavement.

Of course, government costs money. But our Constitution severely limited the things on which the national govern-

ment could spend. And it left in the hands of the people the right to decide how much of their substance they were willing to relinquish to run the government. Why then, has government grown so big? Because we have lost sight of two basic principles which should always guide the financial and fiscal problems of a free people.

The first principle embodies a natural right - the right to property. This means not merely the right to own your own home, but the right to retain for yourself and your family the product of your labor - your wages, salaries, investments. We made a big hole in this basic right when we gave to the federal government, in the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, the power to tax without limit. The proponents of the graduated

income tax had no idea that this was one of Karl Marx's basic tenets, or that it would be used to deprive the people of a goodly part of their property. But the power was there - and like all powers handed to government, it was inevitable that it would be used.

The other principle is known as the Power of the Purse. We gave a great push to Big Government when we stopped telling the government, through our representatives, how it should spend. Instead, starting early in the New Deal, and continuing to this day, we allowed them to make blank-check appropriations to the Executive.

Therefore, to regain our rights, and to restrain Big Government, we must limit the taxing power and recapture the Power of the Purse.

KILLING ABUNDANCE

The application of these two principles has a direct bearing on the right of each American to order his own life - briefly, on his freedom. But they also have a supremely important bearing on his well-being and prosperity - on his job, his business, his profession.

This is because we operate under a free-enterprise economy, or capitalism -whichever you want to call it. There are many things wrong with this system. After all, it is a human system, run by human beings. But it is the system which has brought to the American people a greater degree

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of abundance than is known anywhere else in the world. It is the system which makes possible all the jobs — including government jobs — and all the income with which we buy the necessities and luxuries of life.

We have said this a number of times before, but it will bear repeating — that a government in a free society has nothing to give. Before it can give anything, it must first take away. It is in this fact that we find the immense danger which flows from the cost of Big Government. We do not want to bore you with big figures, so let us put it this way. Back in the 1920's, government was taking one dollar out of

every ten dollars. This meant the people were giving up, in order to support government, one-tenth of everything they produced. Today, government takes one dollar *out of every three*. So we are giving up one-third of everything we produce to support government. And every time Big Government goes in for another spending program, its grab at our substance increases.

You need not be an economist or a financial expert to realize what this can do to the productive energies of the free enterprise system. Always remember that it is the enterpriser in a free system who makes all the jobs. He doesn't do this out of the kindness of his heart. He does it in the hope of making a profit. But why should an enterpriser risk his funds in starting a new business, or expanding an old one, or merely keeping a current one going, when he knows that Big Government is going to reach in and grab a great portion of his hoped-for profit?

But it is not only the enterpriser whose incentive is killed by Big Government. Every American who works for a living, or who is trying to live on the fruits of past labor, is the victim of Big

Government. This is due not only to the terrible tax grab, but to a fact which is often overlooked about Big Government. Government is not a nebulous thing. Government is politicians and bureaucrats. Whatever virtues they may have, there is one thing about them which makes it essential that they always be kept in check. They are non-producers. They produce nothing - they merely spend other people's money. And the more power we give them, the more hungry they become for both power and money. As they travel along the road to complete power, the politicians and the bureaucrats, in order to hold onto their jobs, must keep the people satisfied, or at least complacent. So when

the Big-Government boys feel the time is not ripe for an increased tax grab, they turn to borrowing. Gradually, over the years, they pile on the people's backs an unmanageable public debt. And this big debt, together with big taxes, do their insidious work on a nation's currency. The dollar begins to buy less and less. It buys only two-thirds of what it once did, then only a half, then a quarter - and finally, a runaway inflation takes hold, and it buys practically nothing. Then we have chaos. At this point the politicians and the bureaucrats step in and take over everything. Then we have socialism and, eventually, socialism plus its enforcement machinery -which is communism.

REAL GROWTH

We are hearing a great deal these days about something called our 'rate of growth.' The only way we have ever had a sound and real economic growth is through the operation of our free enterprise system. But the Big-Government boys now say that this growth cannot be left in the hands of a free people - that we do not spend our incomes the way we should. So they want to

turn over to the politicians and the bureaucrats the right to take even more of our substance, and do with it what they think is good for us.

But remember, politicians and bureaucrats do not know how to produce. They know only how to spend what others produce. In their hands, industry and commerce become bound up in bureaucratic controls, in red tape, in the

whims and wishes of political expediency. When politicians and bureaucrats decide how and what and where and when we should produce - instead of leaving all this to the free choice of a free people our abundance and prosperity go out the window. In its place come the drab dullness, the mediocrity, the bare subsistence of socialism or communism.

This is why it is essential that a nation which wants to

keep its abundance, to say nothing of its freedom, must not surrender into the hands of government the substance with which it can be enslaved. The way to insure against such a surrender is to return to the basic American principles we mentioned at the start - a severe limitation on the taxing power of the national government, and a return to the people's representatives of the Power of the Purse. - John T. Flynn

Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 8/28/60

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Book Review USURPATION AND ITS REMEDY

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS,
with an introduction by Dale Alford, 63 pages, Speller, N. Y., \$2.00.

In his book *The Case for the South*, William D. Workman, Jr., gave us a devastating analysis of the manner in which news of issues and events in the southern states, following the Supreme Court's ukase in the 1954 school cases, has been distorted and slanted in the northern and western press. But the picture is not all black. Great northern dailies should give thanks to a small paper in Pioche (Lincoln County) Nev-

ada for redeeming their sullied reputations.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS is a collection of a series of editorials which appeared in the Pioche Record. Congressman Dale Alford, in his introduction, compares these frank, clearly argued and inspiring little gems of reason to the *Federalist Papers*, and he is not far from the mark. We regret only that their author remains unnamed.

As Mr. Alford points out, the issue involved in the Supreme Court's famous, or infamous, decision, is not

racial segregation or racial mixing in either public or private schools. He calls this 'only the effect of criminal usurpation of the power of the people. The real issue is a constitutional question...' It most certainly is - a question of whether the American states (north, south, east and west) which promulgated the Constitution as a pattern of limited government for free men, will permit it to be torn to shreds by a handful of politically appointed and leftward-leaning judges.

In sane, calm terms this little book sets forth the problem, and the solution

which lies within the power of the sovereign states and their people. Who should read it? We quote Mr. Alford once more. These editorials 'are commended for study by all concerned with the problems of maintaining State sovereignty and individual liberty under our system of constitutional government. But, especially are they commended to cognizant agencies in our federal and state governments; to our high schools, colleges, and universities in the fields of history, political science and law; and to the professional and lay press of the Nation.'

- Rosalie Gordon

NEED FOR A REBIRTH

"Today America is in the midst of a frightening moral slump... I do not need to remind you that the doctrines of Karl Marx and of the communists are a destroyer of all morals... And during the 14 years since the war, communist conspiracies and their 'fronts' have poured their Marxist poisons into our people. We have also been brainwashed with another communist basic tenet. They insist that love of country, pride of a people in their history, their ideals and their accomplishments is wicked nationalism. Ever since the war, the communist 'fronts,' and the beatniks, and the eggheads have conducted a national chorus of denunciation of this wicked nationalism..."

"This nation needs a rebirth of a great spiritual force which has been impaired by cynicism and weakened by foreign infections. Call it nationalism if you will... Today, we alone among the nations have a multitude of citizens who

have sunk to a posture of perpetual apology and seeming shame for ourselves...

"I do not pretend that a rebirth of that spirit which lies within the word *America* will cure all moral ills. But with it, we might have a revision of some of our school books. The re-echo of the word *America* might resurrect conscience away from crime and back to manhood. It might, by its recall of the rights and ideals of our people, tend to curb excessive demands of pressure groups. It might stimulate anew the initiative and enterprise of tens of thousands of our youth who from fear of the future seek refuge in the bureaucracies of industry and government..."

- from an address by Herbert Hoover

TOO ARROGANTLY FANTASTIC

"People can get excited when some labor official, as many have, dips his hand in the union till or has somebody knocked in the head. Very few show concern about the power of the unions to knock the country in the head. Perhaps it is just one of those cases where people ignore a threat until it becomes a real disaster; a 'Mein Kampf' always seems too arrogantly fantastic to be true. If so, no one ought to be surprised if one day a Jimmy Hoffa says 'the public be damned' - and the public finds it is."

- Wall Street JOURNAL

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SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE

"Once Americans were pioneers who wanted freedom to stand on their own feet...but no more. As election years near, hopeful eyes are cast toward Washington awaiting the promise of another government crutch. We're waiting too - for a minimum profit law...it would assure the employer a minimum profit whether he deserves it or not."

- *Lilbourn (Mo.) SEMO NEWS*

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